

## A Yacht Club Show Long Ago

In 1950

[Written in 1965]

By Alison Arnold

On a recent Sunday afternoon, I had a telephone call from Mrs. Richard Field of Washington St. She had found among her possessions a program of a Duxbury Yacht Club show, dated July 25, 1914.

Having read my stories of long ago Duxbury in *The Clipper*, she thought I might like to do one about the yellowed program. So she invited me to tea, and over the blue and white teacups in her

sunny living-room, we reminisced about that long hot summer when the first World War began.

Mrs. Field, the former Fanny Seymour, belongs to a theatrical family. Her parents were on the stage and she was named for her aunt, Fanny Davenport, a well-known actress, whose summer home was where the V.C. Powers now live.

Fanny came to Duxbury summers as a child and now lives in the same house. My parents were both on the stage, too, and we came to Duxbury summers. I now live in the same house where I

came as a child. So we have a common love for and interest in Duxbury.

In that long ago summer of 1914, I considered Fanny a romantic figure. Not only was she handsome but she was also being courted by Richard Field. I was enough younger to be impressed.

I kept a diary in 1914 and in it I wrote, on July 25: "What a hot day! I played tennis, but it was too hot. I was allowed to go to the Yacht Club Vaudeville tonight. It was very good. Fanny Seymour and her brother, James, did a skit and they were wonderful."

My father, George Alison, was in the show, too, and did some "Musical Sketches," including some Cockney songs. Fanny's mother, Mrs. Seymour, wrote comments in pencil beside each number on the program. Beside my father's, she wrote: "Very good," and beside Fanny's skit she put: "Very well done."

Christine Wheeler, who is now Mrs. Gordon Jameson of Surplus St., did an interpretive dance called "Entrancing Enticement" and Mrs. Seymour called it "Very good."

A group of 8 girls did a dance called "Glow Worm." They were Margaret and Frances Benedict, Helen and Anna Elms, Helen Maxwell, Maisie Nash, Alice Perkins and Fanny Seymour. Beside this, Mrs. Seymour wrote: "Charming."

Constance Binney, the belle of Duxbury that summer, did a "Chinese One Step" with Helen Maxwell, who is now Mrs. J. Radford Abbot. This number was marked "Entrancing" by Mrs. Seymour. Constance also did a solo dance that was marked "Very pretty." She was 18 that summer and all the boys were crazy about her. Later, she made a name for herself on the stage.

A "One Man Melody" by Frank Sibley was, according to Mrs. Seymour, "Stupid," and the Duxbury Yacht Club quartet, which included W. H. Rose, Waldo Kennard, Alice de Andria and Albert Haberstroh (one of Constance Binney's ardent swains) was termed "Bum!" a rather incongruous remark from dignified Mrs. Seymour! I suppose, in today's slang, it would have been "Lousy!"

### THE DUXBURY YACHT CLUB

PRESENTS

#### THE JUBILEE SHOW

A VAUDEVILLE IN TWO ACTS

August 25, 26, 1950

MORRISON M. BUMP, Director

Assistants

Mrs. Powell Robinson, Jr. Mrs. Robert E. Belknap, Jr.

Mrs. Morrison M. Bump

WILLIAM ELLIS WESTON, Accompanist

ACT I

#### 1. THE JUBILEE CHORUS

"Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen"

"Washermen's Song"

From "Pardon us Plymouth"—Words and music by—  
Foster Trainer

GIRLS

Claire Naylor	Alice Hoyt	Jim Pope	Buddy Hyslop
Jane Plummer	Betsy Boyd	Skiddy Lund	Gareth Green
Deborah Faw	Gay Cross	Gerry Hare	John Hartwell
Rosie Thayer	Toni Colby	Linc Hannel	Fred Weymar
Martha Goodell	Ann Ward	John Arnold	Sherman Hoyt
Louise Nichols	Toni Parker	Fred Clifford	Latham Nichols
Shirley Hamilton	Susan Lunt	Paul Clifford	Reggie Rodman
Nancy Newman	Cinnie Carr	Harry Fitzgibbon	
Pat Patterson	Jane Nichols	Charles Leonard	
Sally Trainer	Fatay Gratton		

Director, Morrison M. Bump

#### 2. "YE YOUNG SQUARE DANCERS"

Caller—Bill Dunkle

Drums—Rudley Hyslop

GIRLS

Helen Palmer	Freeman Davison
Jane Johnson	Bob Belknap
Joanne Dwinell	Tare Newbury
Linda Cross	Bob Harrison

Director—Mrs. Henry Palmer, Mrs. Jane Johnson, Mrs. Robert E. Belknap, Jr.

#### 3. "THE TWO TONES"

Latham Nichols, Fred Clifford

#### 4. "THE CHARLESTON CHEWS"

Starting the "IT" Girl—David Fogg

Ann Ward

Louise Nichols

Directed By Mrs. Richard Thomas

#### 5. "THE SILENT SURGEON"—A Fantasia

Paul Clifford

#### 6. "THE KICKERS"

Sally Trainer, Louise Nichols, Gay Cross, Rosie Thayer, Fatay Gratton.

Directed by Mrs. Richard Thomas

ACT II

#### 1. THE JUBILEE CHORUS

"The Cynosure"

"The Militia Men"

From "Pardon Us Plymouth"—Music and words by Foster Trainer.

Director, Morrison M. Bump

#### 2. "SOMETHING or 'THE BATHROBE DOWN THE WELL"

A Melodrama

CHARACTERS

WILLIAM, The Hero

MARY, The Heroine

BENJAMIN CRABTREE, The Villain

MRS. WILSON, A Widow

A MAN

Written by Albert Morris, Director of Duxbury Playhouse.

#### 3. "MODERN MAGICAL MYSTERIES"—Leonard, the Magician

Charles Leonard

#### 4. "THE SENTIMENTALISTS"—Susan Lunt, Patty Patterson, Claire Naylor, Debby Fish, Nancy Newman, Toni Parker.

"THE FAIRIE QUEEN"—A Classic

Mrs. Lewis H. Clark, Mrs. Charles C. Hewitt, Jr., Wilhelmina Eaton, Sboy Ringquist, Lewis H. Clark, Richard Thomas, Graves Hewitt, Charles C. Hewitt, Jr., Powell Robinson, Jr.

Accompanist—Mrs. Richard Thomas

Director—Mrs. Powell Robinson, Jr.

#### 6. SALVATION ARMY OCTET—Paul Clifford, Leader; John Arnold, Sherman Hoyt, Buddy Hyslop, Charles Leonard, Reggie Rodman, James Pope, Lincoln Hannel, Fred Weymar—Accompanist, Alice Hoyt.

USHERS

Mrs. Percival Gilbert, Chairman

Anna Kelly, Assistant Chairman

Mrs. Freeman Boynton, Mary Trainer, Dorothy Bigelow

Mrs. Eric Pope, Kitty Nash, Dorothy Dole

Joanne Livermore, Susan Lund, Connie Mardonald

Mrs. Nathaniel E. Cutler, Emily Lovell, Mrs. Brewster Nelson

PRODUCTION

STAGE CREW

Steve Loring, Chief, Roddy Rodman, John Williamson

PROPERTIES, COSTUMES

Miss Marguerite Steadman

MAKE-UP

Miss Marguerite Steadman, Mrs. Robert E. Belknap, Jr.

ASSISTANT ACCOMPANISTS

Harriet Phillips Crocker, Alice Hoyt, Mrs. Richard Thomas

TICKETS

Mrs. Robert Fleming, Mrs. Joseph T. Walker

REFRESHMENTS

Mrs. Newton E. Hyslop, Chmn., Mrs. James Lund

Mrs. Freeman Davison, Mrs. Alfred J. Peck